

Five Year Plan for the Library Services and Technology Act FY 2003-2007

New Mexico State Library (Office of Cultural Affairs, Library Division)

New Mexico State Library was originally established as the State Library Extension Service, and provided rotating collections of books for remote locations, as well as delivering library services to rural New Mexicans. Under current authorizing legislation the New Mexico State Library is designated as the state library administrative agency. It is charged with the responsibility to assess the conditions of libraries throughout New Mexico, to undertake efforts to assist them, to assist in the development of new libraries and to promote an effective statewide network of library services, as well as its original charge to operate the extension service. In all of the efforts to “assist and promote” the State Library recognizes that the largest responsibility for support of library services must lie at the local level. Accordingly in its administration of grant funds (not required for the extension of library services) the State Library has always sought to fund programs that could be viewed as “seed” programs that would gather local resources for their continued support if the project were successful.

An area of the State Library’s programs which could be viewed as an exception to the “assist and promote” ideas expressed above is in its provision of library services to rural populations in the state. Most of the locations for these services (bookmobile stops) are located in places that are so small and sparsely populated there is no form of town government. There are no mechanisms for providing infrastructure like water systems, sewer systems, or local police forces beyond the resources of the county Sheriff or the state police. Indeed, funding for infrastructure projects in these areas is usually provided by state legislative appropriation using the resources of the entire state because of insufficient local tax base. Therefore the likelihood of establishment of local library outlets supported by local resources is remote. It is for this reason the State Library will continue to be the provider of library services in many regions of the state. These services are provided from the four NMSL bookmobiles and the NMSL Books-by-Mail programs. There are now 15,419 registered rural services patrons. The bookmobiles serve 132 stops (many of these stops are situated so they serve residents from multiple rural places) and the Books by Mail Program serves 213 communities. Total circulation for these programs in 2001-02 was 159,844. The four bookmobiles traveled a total of 76,606 miles. Since the time of the Library Services Act, New Mexico has utilized Federal Funding to support the provision of library services to rural New Mexicans.

The following tables illustrate some conditions of New Mexico's population.

NEW MEXICO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

<u>New Mexico Total Population</u>	2000	1,819,046	1990	1,515,069
---	-------------	------------------	-------------	------------------

New Mexico Summary of Statistics

The population of New Mexico continues to grow with the influx of many people from other areas of the country accounting for most of the 20% increase in the last decade. It appears these new residents come with higher expectations for their public libraries, e.g. automation, trained professional librarians, complete reference services and longer hours. Among residents aged 5 years and over, 243,973 or almost 14 percent, moved to the state between 1995 and 2000. (Census 2000 total pop 5 years and over 1,689,911.) Between 1990 and 2000, the numbers and percentages relating to educational attainment of persons 25 years and older have shown significant improvement. i.e. fewer persons with less than a ninth grade education, and more persons with degrees.

New Mexico Levels of Education

Persons 25 years and over (1,134,801 in 2000, 922,950 in 1990)

	2000		1990	
<u>Years of education</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>%</u>
Less than 9th grade	104,985	9.3%	105,362	11%
Grade 9-12, no diploma	134,996	11.9%	124,612	13%
High School graduate, incl GED	301,746	26.6%	264,943	26.6%
Some college, no degree	259,924	22.9%	192,835	21%
Associate degree	67,001	5.9%	46,502	5%
Bachelor's degree	154,372	13.6%	111,957	12%
Graduate or professional degree	111,777	9.8%	76,379	8%

New Mexico ranks as the poorest state in the nation according to 2000 data with 19.3% (3 year average 1998-2000) of residents living in poverty.

New Mexico Poverty Status in 1999

	Number	%
All persons for whom poverty status is determined	1,783,907	
All persons below poverty level	328,933	18.4%

The U.S. 2000 Census, Summary Tape File 3A Economic Characteristics, shows: Median household income for the state rose to \$34,133 in 1999 from \$24,087 in 1989.

Poverty rate for persons fell from 20.6 percent in 1989 to 18.4 percent in 1999.

Poverty rate for families went from 16.5 percent in 1989 to 14.5 percent in 1999.

Poverty rate for families with a female householder and no spouse present was 34.1% in 1999 vs. 40.9 percent in 1989.

Nevertheless, the absolute number of Families in poverty rose 4 percent from 65,042 in 1989 to 68,178 in 1999.

Currently Hispanics represent 42.1% of the population, and American Indians represent 9.5% of the state's population. (Race was calculated differently in the 2000 Census this figure reflects the number of people who reported that they were American Indian only – no other combination)

Table 1
New Mexico Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000
(N.B. #'s may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

Figures for 2000 are for individuals reporting one race only

<u>Race</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>%</u>
White	1,214,253	66.8%
Black	34,343	1.9%
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	173,483	9.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	19,255	1.1%
Other	309,882	17%
Hispanic Origin (of any race)	765,386	42.1%

Table 2
Language Spoken At Home/ Ability to Speak English
Total Persons 5 years and older 1,689,911

<u>Language</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>%</u>
Other than English	616,964	36.5%
Spanish	485,681	28.7%
Asian or Pacific Island	11,517	0.7%
Do not speak English very well	201,055	11.9%

The demographic information about the state illustrates the New Mexico State Library and the loose community of libraries in the state serve a population that has some significant barriers to being able to use library and information services. These personal difficulties are somewhat compounded by the varied structure of NM libraries because when it comes to the establishment and operation of libraries, New Mexico state law cannot be viewed as prescriptive. That is, local governments are authorized to establish

and maintain free public libraries under "proper" regulation. The statutes here do not specify what proper regulation is, as is sometimes specified in other states where the roles of libraries and the duties of boards are clearly spelled out. Similarly, there exists a great deal of variation in the support of local school libraries because while most of the funding for public education is provided by the state government, the amount of funding for school library media centers is subject to local school board and local school administration determinations. This deference to local prerogatives has made the levels of library services available to New Mexicans quite variable depending on where they reside. The LSTA is proving to be a useful tool for the State Library to interact with the field of "independent players" who provide library services throughout the state, and to cause some of them to interact with one another more than they might otherwise.

Goals, Priorities, and Activities

The New Mexico State Library's program of activities encompasses many of the priorities of the Library Services and Technology Act. A priority for the agency has, since its establishment some seventy-five years ago, been the extension of direct library services to rural citizens of the state. Accordingly, the Federal legislative priority to target library and information services will continue to utilize most of the resources received by New Mexico under the LSTA, unless State funding priorities shift.

The State Library will continue its programs which target library and information services to underserved citizens in the state. These programs consist of the rural services program, the State grants-in-aid to public libraries program, the Native American Libraries development and enhancement project, both the interlibrary lending and interlibrary reference services provided by State Library staff, and coordination and cooperation with the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy to support community based literacy training programs statewide.

Goal 1: All New Mexicans have access to library services.

LSTA priorities:

- Targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities.
- Establishing or enhancing electronic linkages among or between libraries
- Electronically linking libraries with educational, social, or information services

Strategy (Rural Services):

The State Library's present program of rural services consists of four bookmobiles housed in four regional offices with their own collections, and a books-by-mail program for residents of the state who cannot be served by bookmobiles and/or have other conditions which render them unable to use local libraries.

Activities:

- Federal Library Services and Technology Act funding will be utilized to pay for staff for the Rural Services program. (Three in each one of the four regional bookmobile offices, and three at the State Library in Santa Fe. Two of these positions in Santa Fe are for the books-by-mail program, the third is for the supervisor of the overall program.)
- Federal funding will also support the operational costs of the program including utilities, rent, gasoline, oil, tires, mailing etc.
- The costs for library materials are supplemented by local and state funds in the current program and this method of support will continue.
- State funding has supported a portion of the staff expenses in recent years through shifting staff expenses to state funding as funds in the personnel categories are available at the close of state fiscal periods. Additionally, the State Library has met with some recent successes in obtaining state funding for replacement bookmobile vehicles.

Evaluation

The rural services program is evaluated utilizing standard public library service measures. Reports are gathered on a quarterly basis. All of the regional bookmobiles now provide access to information resources that utilize the Internet to the extent that stops are located in areas where cell phone coverage is adequate. This varies from place to place and sometime varies according to weather.

Strategy (state grants-in-aid to public libraries):

This state funded program provides grants to public libraries that meet eligibility requirements to augment their materials and services.

Activities:

- There are two tiers of aid in this program, aid for “developing” libraries and aid for libraries which have full public library status.
- Developing libraries are only eligible for one type of grant.
- Public libraries are eligible for six categories of grants. Four of these categories are formulaic: (Collection, consisting of a basic grant and a matching component up to \$1,000, Branch for each additional service outlet, Continuing Education, and Per Capita). The other two categories of grants are competitive and they are Cooperative and Outreach project grants.
- The State Library will provide Continuing Education opportunities for library staff statewide, providing information on basic provision of library and information services, planning, budgeting, evaluation (including outcome based evaluation.)

Evaluation

This relatively small program (\$350,000 divided among 75 libraries) is evaluated each year in terms of the numbers of developing libraries which are able to document their progress and change their aid status to full public libraries, by the numbers of continuing education activities library staff are able to participate in, the quantities of additional library resources which are purchased, and the accomplishment of individual project goals associated with the competitive components of this program.

Strategy (Native American Libraries development and enhancement project):

The State Library receives appropriations to use state funds to target assistance to Native American communities throughout the state.

Activities:

- Currently funds are used to: provide grants to these communities for library and information services; purchase equipment to provide access to the internet, and provide library and information resources; provide training and technical assistance to local staff members in both electronic technology and library practices; and purchase library resources for a college library that provides office and workspace for the project in consideration for the contribution of these library resources.
- The State Library dedicates 2 FTE positions for the activities of this project and generally attempts to include these communities in statewide activities and initiatives to support library and information services.

Evaluation:

This program is evaluated in terms of: numbers and amounts of grants distributed; numbers of communities with internet access and use statistics (which have been measurable as long as the State Library arranges for ISPs for this service;) numbers of communities that become eligible to participate in the State Grants in Aid program (above;) numbers of training hours provided; measurement of community use statistics; amounts and numbers of outside grants that are received to support the activities of the project.

Strategy (interlibrary lending and reference services):

The State Library has historically provided interlibrary loan services to libraries throughout the state most frequently serving as a broker to obtain desired materials for libraries without access to electronic bibliographic utilities from third party lenders.

Activities:

- Recently steps have been taken to move the highest volume requesters off of reliance on the services of the state library and allow these borrowers to have access to regionally available materials and to provide information about their bibliographic records to be shared in the region. (Group Access Capability--GAC) Both of these procedures will continue in the future and may require periodic support from LSTA funds.
- The interlibrary reference services provided by the State Library rely on the staff and material resources of the State Library to provide responses to specific user requests which are beyond the resources of the requesting libraries statewide. Access to this service is still predominantly via telephone. Federal funding may be utilized to subsidize the access to this service.
- The State Library is exploring options to further enhance resource sharing among NM libraries. An example under consideration is the development of virtual statewide catalogs of library holdings, and/or serials union lists to facilitate the delivery of information to New Mexicans.

Evaluation:

These programs are evaluated in terms of numbers of requests that are answered and the timeliness of responses.

Strategy (cooperation with the literacy coalition):

For the past eight years the State Library has received as a component of its appropriation from the legislature a sum for the purpose of “contracting with a state wide not for profit organization to coordinate and enhance the delivery of literacy programs for adults in New Mexico.”

Activities:

- The State Library has contracted with the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy to make subgrants available to local community based organizations to provide literacy programs, and to provide training to local literacy programs in tutor training, program management and community outreach.
- Some of these community programs operate in cooperation with local libraries, but most are operated independently from libraries.

Evaluation:

Each year this project is evaluated in terms of numbers of individuals who have received literacy training, outcomes for persons tutored (e.g. advances in reading levels, G.E.D.'s attained, employment changes) and the total hours of literacy training provided.

Goal 2: New Mexicans have access to an array of electronic resources which address the varied information needs of the users.

LSTA Priorities:

- electronically linking libraries with educational, social, or information services
- assisting libraries in accessing information through electronic networks

Strategy

The State Library will obtain statewide access to proprietary databases to meet the information needs of New Mexicans with LSTA funds and state funds.

Activities:

- The State Library will spearhead the acquisition of statewide licenses from providers of proprietary databases to facilitate the delivery of current and retrospective information.
- The New Mexico State Library proposes to conduct training for library staff around the state to facilitate their knowledge and expertise in delivery of information to clients. This process will include information for librarians on the most basic aspects of computers and their utility in information access as well as advanced strategies for information retrieval.
- The State Library will both contract with personnel to conduct workshops and utilize expertise of its own staff.
- The State Library will cooperate with academic libraries and institutions throughout the state to utilize their facilities for these training activities thereby reducing the travel time for local librarians. This has been a significant issue for some library personnel given the 121,365 square mile area of the state.
- Providing training opportunities in a variety of locations throughout the state will also allow us to conduct workshops for smaller groups, and allow for assessment of local/regional needs and solutions to information access problems.

Strategy:

The State Library will assure that information about government will be available to citizens through local libraries and the Internet.

Activities:

- The State Library will participate in efforts to provide citizens with information on the activities of government through electronic means, including access to electronic files and digitization of materials.

Evaluation:

The statewide licensing will be measured by the numbers and types of statewide licenses acquired and their utilization. The accessibility of government information resources will be measured by the quantity of information points made accessible through spidering and query programs, and the number of searches utilizing it. Additionally, the quantity of materials that are digitized will be recorded. Each workshop will be assessed by participants regarding its clarity and utility.

Goal 3: All libraries participate in a statewide network of libraries that provides New Mexicans with local access to global information.

LSTA Priorities:

- Establish or enhance electronic linkages among or between libraries
- Encourage libraries in different areas and libraries of different types to establish consortia and share resources
- Pay the costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and telecommunications technologies
- Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library, including underserved urban and rural communities and children from families with incomes below the poverty line.

Strategy

LSTA funding will be used to assist the state's library community to meet other priorities of the act through local projects.

Activities:

- Determination of priority projects for subgrants will be made in consultation with the library community and the New Mexico State Library Commission.
- Based upon the recommendation(s) and input from these groups, and the availability of funding, the State Librarian may request competitive proposals for grants from New Mexico libraries to fund local projects that meet LSTA priorities.
- Funded projects will be selected on the basis of: (1) the congruency of the local project priorities with the priorities of the LSTA, (2) the number of New Mexico citizens whose information access would be improved by funding the

project, (3) the strength of the evaluation process for the project, (4) the probability that the project will continue without continued external funding.

Evaluation

In order to garner local input and perspectives on these sub-grants the State Library will recruit library staff members from throughout the state to serve as evaluators of applications, and to serve as peer reviewers of funded projects.

Administration

The State Library does not propose at this time to utilize any of the allowable 4% of the grant award for the purposes of administration of the LSTA. The entire grant award will be utilized in the direct provision of library services, the provision of access to information resources, providing training to New Mexico Librarians, or in the form of subgrants to libraries for eligible activities. A stipulation of all subgrants will be that the entire grant will be utilized for the purposes outlined in the grant application and authorized by the Library Services and Technology Act, and not for the administration of the grant project.

The New Mexico Library Commission is established by NMSA 1978 18-2-1. The commission consists of four members appointed by the governor based on their knowledge of and interest in library matters, and to the extent practicable on geographic representation of the state. The commission also requires one member elected from the membership of the state board of education.

In the administration of this plan, the New Mexico State Library certifies that it will comply with the following guidelines:

STATEMENT OF PROGRAM ASSURANCES

All State Library Administrative Agencies receiving assistance under the Library Services and Technology Act, P.L. 104-208, as amended, must comply with the statutes and regulations cited below. To receive federal assistance, all applicants must provide this signed Statement of Program Assurances.

The undersigned, on behalf of the State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA), agrees that the SLAA will comply with Subtitle B of the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 -- the Library Services and Technology Act ("LSTA" or this "Act"), P.L. 104-208, as amended, and all of its provisions, including those set forth below.

- (a) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. Section 9122(6), the SLAA provides assurance that it has the fiscal and legal authority and capability to administer all aspects of the LSTA, that it will establish the State's policies, priorities, criteria, and procedures necessary to the implementation of all programs under this Act (including the development of a State Plan), and that it will submit copies of these materials for approval as required by

regulations promulgated by the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

- (b) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. Section 9134(b)(6), the State Library Administrative Agency provides assurance that it will comply with 20 U.S.C. Section 9134(f), which sets out standards relating to Internet Safety for public elementary school and secondary school libraries that do not receive services at discount rates under section 254(h)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for which IMLS State Program funds are used to purchase computers used to access the Internet or to pay for direct costs associated with accessing the Internet.
- (c) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. Section 9134(b)(7), the SLAA provides assurance that it shall make reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Director may require reasonably to carry out the State Plan and to determine the extent to which funds provided under this Act have been effective in carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (d) The SLAA agrees that it will comply with all applicable IMLS regulations, including 45 C.F.R. Part 1183 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Government; 45 C.F.R. Part 1180.44 -- Federal Statutes and Regulations on Nondiscrimination; 45 C.F.R. Part 1110 -- Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs; and 45 C.F.R. Part 1185 -- Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, under the rules for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

The SLAA further provides assurance that it will comply with all other applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding.

These assurances are provided in connection with any and all financial assistance from the Institute of Museum and Library Services after the date this form is signed. This includes payments after such date for financial assistance approved before such date. The SLAA recognizes and agrees that any such assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this Statement of Program Assurances. These assurances are binding on the SLAA, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and on the Authorizing Official whose signature appears below.

For additional information on this Statement of Program Assurances, contact IMLS at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506.

Signature of Authorizing Official

Benjamin T. Wakashige, State Librarian
Name and Title of Authorizing Official

July 31, 2002
Date